
AP[®] World History: Modern

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Short-Answer Question 4

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Question 4: Short Answer No Stimulus**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

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- [a] Identify ONE **political** factor in the period after 1945 that facilitated the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The weakening of many European imperial states in the aftermath of the World Wars led to the establishment of post-colonial states in Africa.
- The expansion of nationalist ideas and/or anti-imperialism sentiments during the twentieth century contributed to the establishment of newly independent states in Africa.
- African veterans of the First and Second World Wars often used their experience and contributions to the war effort to seek independence.
- The United Nations' emphasis on self-determination encouraged worldwide support for decolonization and independence in Africa.

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- [b] Identify ONE **economic** factor in the period after 1945 that facilitated the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Many European states struggled economically after World War II, which weakened their ability to maintain colonial empires.
 - Cold War competition between communists and capitalists helped some African independence movements establish new nations.
 - The desire to keep their natural resources and develop their own economies helped motivate African independence movements to establish new nations.
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| [c] | Explain ONE reason why postcolonial states in Africa often adopted communist or socialist ideologies. | 1 point |
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Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The governments of many newly independent nations in Africa took a strong role in the economy to promote economic development in their countries.
- Most European imperialist powers had capitalist economies, which had exploited African societies and economies. This led many Africans to oppose capitalism and support socialism.
- At the end of the Second World War, the Soviet Union [and communism in general] was seen as being on the ascendance around the world, which attracted African independent leaders looking for a strong ally.
- During the Cold War the Soviet Union and its allies actively sought to spread their ideas and socialist economic system internationally, which led them to support some newly independent nations in Africa.

Total for question 4 3 points

- a. One political factor in the period after 1945 that facilitated the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa was the weakening of European colonial powers after World War Two. Colonies in Africa could never decolonize and establish their own states because Western colonial powers had always been too powerful, but after WW2 the European colonial powers had suffered great losses in people and infrastructure. This weakness made them very susceptible to decolonization and largely facilitated the establishment of postcolonial states in Africa.
- b. One economic factor in the period after 1945 that facilitated the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa was the lack of monetary resources of European colonial powers. Following World War Two colonial powers had become broke from having to fight in the war and could no longer justify the cost of keeping colonies subjugated should they rebel. People in the colonies realized this and strove for their independence, causing decolonization and leading to the establishment of many independent postcolonial states in Africa.
- c. One reason why postcolonial states in Africa often adopted communist or socialist ideologies was because of pressure from the Soviet Union. These new states gained their independence at the height of the Cold War where almost all states were forced to choose a side. These new postcolonial states had just gained their independence and were still very weak and couldn't risk conflict with the USSR, so they had no choice but to adopt communist or socialist ideologies when they were threatened by the Soviet Union.

- a. The Axis Powers, most importantly Germany and the Ottoman Empire, were so crippled from both world wars that they soon fell apart, the latter of the two dissolving entirely, and this led to decolonization as the nations were incapable of supporting and upholding their colonial territories.
- b. Western nations such as France, despite victory, still suffered massive costs from both world wars and could no longer support their colonies. Although reluctantly, their influence dissipated until it was gone entirely.
- c. Because of the unfair class structures and remaining Western system of capitalism still present after decolonization, postcolonial African states adopted socialist and communist policies with the intention of redistributing and equalizing wealth in attempt to stabilize and improve their economies.

- a. One political factor in the period after 1945 that facilitated the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa were the WWII conflicts that were going on at the time and other smaller states resisting rules of larger states who had once imperialized them or colonized them.
- b. One economic factor in the period after 1945 that facilitates the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa is that the larger some of the larger empires could no longer support the colonies in Africa as they had been left in debt from WWII.
- c. One reason why postcolonial states in Africa often adopted communist or socialist ideologies is because of cold war conflicts between the Soviet Union and the United States that had resulted from WWII. Both countries hated the other ideology so they would try to stop the other from spreading their ideas elsewhere. Instead of having a full blown war, they fought smaller conflicts through smaller independent states that became split such as Korea and Vietnam.

Short Answer Question 4

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

Students were expected to answer three questions about post-colonial states in Africa in the period after 1945. For part (a), students were asked to identify one political factor that contributed to the establishment of such states. For part (b), students were asked to identify one economic factor that contributed to the establishment of such states. Finally, for part (c), students were asked to explain why post-colonial African states often chose to adopt either communism or socialism as an ideology.

The question tested content primarily from Unit 8 of the course framework although students could also leverage knowledge from Unit 7 in their responses. The question primarily addressed content from Topics 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, and 8.7.

Sample: 4A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for part (a) for noting the weakened state of European countries after World War II.

The response earned 1 point for part (b) for noting European countries' inability to handle the costs of suppressing rebellions.

The response earned 1 point for part (c) for noting that pressure from the USSR caused some African countries to adopt communist ideology.

Sample: 4B

Score: 2

The response did not earn the point for part (a) because it inaccurately characterizes the relationship between Africa, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire in the period after 1945. The response conflates the first and second world wars and confuses interwar events with post-WWII conditions.

The response earned 1 point for part (b) for noting the massive costs of war hindered the European countries such as France from supporting the colonies.

The response earned 1 point for part (c) because it describes the adoption of socialism in an attempt to redistribute and equalize wealth, in the context of class inequalities inherited from the colonial period.

Short Answer Question 4 (continued)

Sample: 4C

Score: 1

The response did not earn the point for part (a) because the prompt refers to after 1945, and the response references conflicts during World War II.

The response earned 1 point part (b) for identifying war debt as an economic factor stopping European countries from supporting colonies.

The response did not earn the point for part (c) because although it offers a rationale for conflict, it focuses on the impact of Cold War proxy wars in Korea and Vietnam rather than addressing postcolonial states in Africa.